



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE ERNEST HEWETT**  
THIRTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4040  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

HOME: 860-442-9765  
CAPITOL: 860-240-8585  
TOLL FREE: 800-842-8267  
FAX: 860-240-0206  
E-MAIL: Ernest.Hewett@cga.ct.gov

**MEMBER**

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
BANKING COMMITTEE  
REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

February 5, 2015

Testimony in support of HB 5924, AN ACT CONCERNING LATE SUBMISSION OF  
CLAIMS FOR LOTTERY PRIZES

Honorable Co-Chairmen, Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and distinguished members of  
the Public Safety and Security Committee.

My name is Ernest Hewett and I am a State Representative from the 39<sup>th</sup> Assembly District from  
the City of New London. I am presenting this testimony to provide people who submit late  
claims for lottery prizes to be able to receive them until August 1, 2015 provided that their  
tickets expired on or after July 1, 1996. This legislative proposal stems from the case of Mr.  
Clarence Jackson.

On Friday October 13, 1995 Clarence Jackson went to Snack Plus convenience store near his  
home in Hamden, Connecticut to buy 10 lottery tickets as he always did. He gave them to his  
bedridden father to hold. He never checked them. His father always did. Clarence's father also  
was in and out of the hospitals at the time with emphysema. Clarence, who was working a twelve  
hour shift at the time, visited his father daily and was also caring for his diabetic mother. To  
make a long story short, Clarence Sr. did pass away.

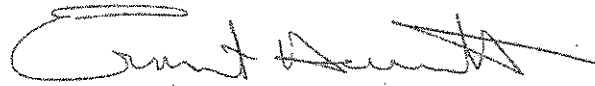
And it happened. His sister Sheila Cole who saw the newscast report on October 13 1996 that the  
\$5.8 million jackpot from the year before had not been claimed and was about to expire. She  
went looking for old tickets in her parents' house and sure enough one of those she found was a  
winner. The only problem was that it was now 11:15 on Sunday night. It was just 45 minutes  
before the deadline. All that Clarence had to do was to go to any store and have the ticket  
validated. He did not know that though. He thought that all he had to do is to go to the Lottery  
Office next day. Then another bombshell happened—it was a Columbus Day. The Lottery Office  
was closed. The day following that, Clarence woke up and read that his ticket was worthless.

He was devastated. Mr. Jackson turned to our legislature—our House of Representatives in 1997 passed a bill allowing Clarence to collect the winning, but the proposal was later defeated in the committee.

I am urging you to favorably consider this bill. It would give many people a second chance to their deserved winnings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernest Hewett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ernest Hewett  
State Representative